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TO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0000
INFO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0000
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0000
RUEHFI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 0000
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0000
RUFHMB/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY 0000
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0000
RUVESLA/HQ SPACE CMD PETERSON AFB CD PRIORITY
ALL POLADS COLLECTIVE
ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT USOFFICE KOROR
USOFFICE KOLONIA
USOFFICE MAJURO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
BT
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GENEVA PASS TO: ACDA, D&S, START, CD, SCC; FOR MBFR

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PARM PRESS COVERAGE
SUBJECT: AUGUST 24, 1988 ROUND-UP OF ARMS
CONTROL-RELATED ARTICLES

1. THE WASHINGTON POST: "UPGRADING B1 COULD COST8
BILLION, HILL TOLD," BY MOLLY MOORE.

BEGIN EXCERPT: AIR FORCE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE
TROUBLED B1 BOMBER'S ABILITY TO PENETRATE FUTURE SOVIET
DEFENSES COULD COST AS MUCH AS8 BILLION, ACCORDING TO A
NEW CONGRESSIONAL REPORT RELEASED YESTERDAY. THE
PROPOSALS FOR COUNTERING FUTURE SOVIET THREATS, RANGING
FROM IMPROVING ITS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TO IMPROVING ITS
ABILITY TO CONFUSE SOVIET RADARS, WERE REVEALED PUBLICLY
IN DETAIL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
OFFICE STUDY. THE REPORT ALSO STRESSED THAT, DESPITE AIR
FORCE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING B1 SYSTEMS, THE28 BILLION
PENETRATING-BOMBER PROGRAM IS STILL YEARS FROM MEETING
REQUIREMENTS TO COUNTER CURRENT SOVIET THREATS. "WE HAVE
TO DECIDE FIRST IF IT'S WORTH IT TO FIX THE B1'S
PROBLEMS," SAID REP. LES ASPIN (D-WIS.), CHAIRMAN OF THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND A VOCAL CRITIC OF THE
BOMBER. HE REQUESTED THE CBO STUDY. END EXCERPT.

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NEAR KRASNOYARSK WAS A "MATERIAL BREACH" OF THE ABM TREATY, A POTENTIALLY RADICAL STEP THAT COULD LEAD TO IMMEDIATE U.S. RENUNCIATION OF THE PACT. "UNLESS RESOLVED, THE KRASNOYARSK RADAR VIOLATION WILL FORCE THE U.S. TO CONSIDER THE EXERCISE OF ITS RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO TAKE APPROPRIATE AND PROPORTIONATE RESPONSES," THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SAID. "TWO DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC STATEMENT, PRESIDENT REAGAN WROTE A SHORT NON-CONFRONTATIONAL LETTER TO MR. GORBACHEV THAT WAS DELIVERED IN MOSCOW BY U.S. AMBASSADOR JACK MATLOCK. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SEEN THE LETTER SAID THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T MENTION THE TERM "MATERIAL BREACH" OR INVOKE ANY OTHER THREAT. THEY SAID THAT MR. REAGAN, IN ESSENCE, URGED THE SOVIET LEADER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, WHICH HAD BEEN BEDEVILING U.S.-SOVIET ARMS CONTROL DELIBERATIONS SINCE 1983. THE PRESIDENT TOLD MR. GORBACHEV, IN EFFECT, "WE ARE ALL AGREED THIS IS A VIOLATION, SO LET'S GET THIS RESOLVED AND PUT THE ISSUE BEHIND US," OFFICIALS REPORTED. END EXCERPT. WHITEHEAD
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